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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date            Declassify on            Reason           

June 4, 1979

Dear Mr. Rauss:

Thank you for your letter of May 17 on behalf of your constituents, concerning the detention of Jacobo Timerman in Argentina.

The United States Government has made repeated efforts on behalf of Mr. Timerman. President Carter raised his case with President Videla when the latter was in Washington for the Panama Canal Treaties signing ceremony. Secretary Vance reviewed his case in detail when he visited Argentina in November of 1977. Since then, our Ambassador and Department officials have continued to press for the resolution of Mr. Timerman's case. At present, he is under house arrest, and Argentina's Supreme Court has ruled his detention under "Poder Ejecutivo Nacional" illegal. Mr. Timerman is seeking his immediate freedom and challenging his continued detention under the "Actos Institucionales".

We remain hopeful that the Government of Argentina will release Mr. Timerman and will continue our efforts to encourage that end.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

The Honorable  
Henry S. Rauss,  
House of Representatives.

ARA/ECA:JAndre:11

5/30/79 ext. 22161

Clearances: ARA/ECA:EWuser, ARA/PPC:POakley, H:ETaylor